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POLICY ISSUES: COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report, prepared pursuant to Governing Council decision 18/7 of 25 May 1995, provides information on issues arising from the resolutions of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly which are of relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In areas where follow-up action to the resolution has not been indicated, this is provided in the reports of the Executive Director under the relevant agenda items. Information on issues arising from resolutions of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly will be provided in an addendum to this document.

Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council may wish to take note of the Executive Director's report and the actions indicated therein.

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ISSUES ARISING FROM THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FIFTIETH SESSION, SPECIFICALLY CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

1. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly, in resolution 50/110 of 20 December 1995, entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme", endorsed the report of the Governing Council of UNEP at its eighteenth session and the decisions contained therein. Four decisions were recognized, in particular: decision 18/1 on the role and priorities of UNEP; 18/5 on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on environment; 18/7 on environment and sustainable development, and 18/10 on good environmental housekeeping within the United Nations system. The General Assembly also requested the Governing Council to report on the role and activities of UNEP in the implementation of Agenda 21, in accordance with its mandate, and to submit that report to the General Assembly at its 1997 special session. The importance of sufficient and timely contributions to the Environment Fund was also noted. The General Assembly welcomed the efforts of UNEP to promote maximum and cost-effective utilization of the conference facilities in Nairobi. Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly, a report on the role and activities of UNEP in the implementation of Agenda 21 will be before the Governing Council at its nineteenth session for its consideration with a view to submission to the General Assembly at its special session.

2. In its resolution 50/113 of 20 December 1995, entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21", the General Assembly decided to convene this special session for the duration of one week in June 1997 (the special session has now been scheduled for the period 9-13 June 1997). The decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to devote its fifth session to preparations for the special session was welcomed. The General Assembly also welcomed the decision of the Governing Council of UNEP to hold its nineteenth session early in 1997 with a view to making a contribution to the special session and invited all other relevant international organizations to contribute to the special session as well. The General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to prepare, for the consideration of CSD at its fifth session, a comprehensive report containing an overall assessment of the progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the implementation of Agenda 21 and recommendations for future actions and priorities, as a contribution to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly. This report is currently being prepared under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD), which is the inter-agency mechanism entrusted with coordinating follow-up in the United Nations system to Agenda 21, and will include the following:

(a) Concise reports on the progress achieved in specific sectoral and cross-sectoral areas;

(b) Country profiles showing the progress achieved at the national level;

(c) Major and emerging trends and issues within the framework of Agenda 21 and related outcomes of the Conference in the area of sustainable

development, including the environmental impact of activities that are gravely hazardous to the environment; and

(d) Recommendations on the future role of the Commission.

3. UNEP has been assigned, under the auspices of IACSD, the role of task manager in several areas of Agenda 21 (the areas covered by chapter 9 - atmosphere; chapter 12 - desertification; chapter 15 - biological diversity; chapter 19 - toxic chemicals; chapter 20 - hazardous wastes; and, together with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, chapter 40 - information for decision making) and has the responsibility to prepare the concise progress reports. In addition, UNEP provides inputs to a number of other reports on issues, of both a sectoral and cross-sectoral nature, in which other United Nations bodies have been designated task managers. The preparation of these progress reports is very demanding, in terms of both time and resources.

4. Following the agreements reached under IACSD, UNEP has taken a substantial role in preparing the major and emerging trends section of the comprehensive report being prepared for the special session of the General Assembly. As UNEP has not received any additional financial allocation to undertake this task, it has to be discharged within existing resources.

5. By its resolution 50/112 of 20 December 1995, entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa", the General Assembly welcomed the signing of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, by a large number of States and urged States that had not yet signed or ratified the Convention to do so. With regard to the subsequent sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, the General Assembly recommended that the first session of the Conference of the Parties be convened in June or August 1997. Relevant United Nations organizations, including UNEP, were requested to strengthen their support for the Convention's interim secretariat.

6. In its resolution 50/114 of 20 December 1995, entitled, "Desertification and drought", the General Assembly recalled its appeal to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP to continue and strengthen their cooperation in combating desertification, notably through support for the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO) by the joint venture programme, and also welcomed their efforts to strengthen their cooperation through the UNEP/UNDP partnership to combat desertification. An appeal was made to Governments and other interested organizations to make contributions to relevant United Nations bodies, including UNSO, to strengthen their capacity to support activities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in all affected developing countries and regions. The Secretary-General was requested to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

7. Every effort has been made by UNEP to support the implementation of resolutions 50/112 and 50/114 within the reduced resources available to the UNEP programme "Caring for Land Resources" in 1996. UNEP provides support to regional meetings to prepare for meetings of the Intergovernmental

Negotiating Committee, as well as supporting the costs of a small number of participants attending these meetings, and is continuing to develop its partnership with UNDP in the areas of awareness-raising and desertification indicators. UNEP has offered to host and to provide administrative support to the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification. The relevant documentation will be before the Council at its nineteenth session.

8. In its resolution 50/115 of 20 December 1995, entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind", the General Assembly noted with satisfaction progress in the process of ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and recognized the support given to the Convention's interim secretariat by various United Nations bodies, including UNEP. The resolution also endorsed the institutional linkage between the Convention secretariat and the United Nations, as advised by the Secretary-General and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and expressed its appreciation for the support offered by Germany for the relocation and effective functioning of the Convention secretariat. The Assembly also urged Member States to pay promptly and in full their contributions to the Convention's trust fund. The Secretary-General was requested to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of this resolution.

9. UNEP continued to provide support for the Convention secretariat, including through scientific support for programme development as well as through the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). UNEP also continued to assist the Convention secretariat in its information programme, although, owing to financial constraints, the involvement of UNEP in that programme has been reduced and is threatened in 1997. UNEP provides one professional staff member - a legal advisor - to the Convention secretariat. It has also launched initiatives aimed at providing opportunities for the exchange of experience and information about jointly implemented activities during the pilot phase of the Framework Convention.

10. In its resolution 50/117 of 20 December 1995, entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction", the General Assembly noted with appreciation the specific measures contained in the report of the Secretary-General for the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World and its Plan of Action and called upon Governments and the organizations of the United Nations system to participate actively in the financial and technical support of Decade activities. While conscious of the need to avoid duplication of work among United Nations bodies dealing with early-warning capacities and taking into account those already in existence, including within UNEP, the General Assembly commended all relevant United Nations bodies for the constructive inter-agency approach they had applied in that area. It also invited the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to make the early-warning data gathered under United Nations auspices readily available to the decision makers concerned at all levels. At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly will review progress made in the implementation of this resolution.

11. UNEP agreed to share responsibilities in the area of early warning with the secretariat of the International Decade. UNEP assumes the role of

monitoring major environmental changes which occur over longer periods of time, such as climate change or ozone depletion, and which can lead to major natural disasters. UNEP is actively involved in the preparation of the report to the General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution. UNEP also participates in the system-wide Earth Watch Programme, whose role is complementary to that of the International Decade for National Disaster Reduction.

12. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, entitled "World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond". The Programme itself, contained in the annex to the resolution, includes, among its proposals for action in the area of environment, an invitation to UNEP to intensify production of information materials illustrating the global dimension, origins and interrelated effects of environmental degradation and describing the outcomes of initiatives undertaken by various countries. UNEP is requested to continue its efforts to disseminate to and exchange information with major youth organizations. To that end, UNEP is preparing a second edition of its publication Young Action for the Future, an information booklet on the environment for and by youth. In early 1996, a second Regional Youth Forum was organized to train youth leaders in Africa on methods of developing income-generating projects. An African Youth Plan of Action was developed as a result of this initiative. In November 1996, UNEP, together with DPCSD, chaired the Sustainable Development Working Group of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations system. The Forum recommended the preparation of a training manual on the environment and sustainable development for youth. Similarly, in 1997, UNEP will organize its biennial Global Youth Forum, providing an opportunity for thousands of young people worldwide to learn and share experience on community-based environmental action.

13. In its resolution 50/111 of 20 December 1996, the General Assembly welcomed the results of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Nassau, Bahamas, from 28 November to 9 December 1994, and called upon those States that had not yet ratified the Convention to expedite their internal procedures of ratification. The Executive Secretary of the Convention was requested to report, through the Economic and Social Council, on the results of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, and also to make these reports available to CSD.

14. UNEP is host to the Convention secretariat and provides the necessary scientific and technical support to both the secretariat and the various organs of the Convention, including the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety. UNEP has also taken a number of initiatives in the area of biological diversity, including the preparation and dissemination of the International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology, which were adopted at the Global Consultation of Government-designated Experts in Cairo, in December 1995.

15. The General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, also adopted resolution 50/24 of 5 December 1995, entitled "Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish

Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks". In this resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that reporting on all major fisheries-related activities and instruments is effectively coordinated and duplication of activities and reporting minimized and invited the relevant specialized agencies to cooperate with the Secretary-General to that end. An item entitled "Law of the sea", containing two sub-items relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, and to large scale pelagic drift-net fishing, is to be included in the agenda of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly.

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POLICY ISSUES: COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly as its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme

Addendum to the report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report constitutes an addendum to the report by the Executive Director contained in document UNEP/GC.19/2 and provides information on issues arising from the resolutions of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly which are of relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

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ISSUES ARISING FROM THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FIFTY-FIRST SESSION WHICH ARE OF RELEVANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

1. In its resolution 51/ ..., entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21" the General Assembly decided to convene the special session for a duration of one week from 23 to 27 June 1997, at the highest possible political level. It decided also that the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) at its fifth session as well as the Commission's ad-hoc open-ended inter-sessional Working Group would be devoted to preparations for the session. The Assembly stressed also that there should be no attempt to renegotiate Agenda 21 or any other internationally recognized intergovernmental agreements in the field of environment and sustainable development and that discussions should focus on the fulfilment of commitments and the further implementation of Agenda 21 and related outcomes of Conferences held since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The General Assembly requested the Secretariat to provide all relevant reports called for in General Assembly resolution 50/113, preferably not later than 15 January 1997.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly invited the UNEP Governing Council to include in its report to the General Assembly at its special session information and views on ways to address, in a forward-looking manner, national, regional and international applications of principles contained in the Rio Declaration and the implementation of Agenda 21 in the interrelated issues of environment and development.

3. The Assembly also requested that other contributions to the special session, in addition to those identified in its resolution 50/113, include submissions from relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations, including the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) of CSD and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), information on the outcomes of the post-UNCED United Nations conferences such as the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, regional and subregional conferences, summits and other inter-sessional meetings on sustainable development organized by countries, and information on the activities of relevant United Nations conventions on environment and development and the global freshwater assessment, and that account be taken of the activities organized by major groups, including business and industry and non-governmental organizations.

4. As indicated in the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.19/2) to which the present document constitutes an addendum, UNEP, in its capacity of task manager in a number of areas of Agenda 21, has already submitted relevant reports to the United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. By the required deadline UNEP will also have completed its report on the application of the Rio Declaration principles as requested by the Assembly.

5. In its resolution 51/..., entitled "Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities", the text of which was prepared by CSD and subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the General Assembly endorsed the Washington Declaration and the

Global Programme of Action on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and also considered the proposal of UNEP on institutional arrangements and implementation of the Global Programme of Action with the relevant recommendations of the CSD.

6. The resolution stressed the need for States to take action for the formal endorsement by each competent international organization of those parts of the Global Programme of Action that are relevant to their mandates and to accord appropriate priority to its implementation in the work programme of each organization. It stressed the need for States to take such action at the next meeting of the governing bodies of those organizations, including the UNEP Governing Council. The General Assembly also called upon UNEP to take expeditious action, within its available resources and with the aid of voluntary contributions, to provide for the establishment and implementation of the clearing-house mechanism referred to in the Global Programme of Action, and requested the Executive Director of UNEP to prepare and submit to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session specific proposals on that clearing-house. Those proposals are before the Council in document UNEP/GC.19/25.

7. In its resolution 51/..., entitled "Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa", the General Assembly welcomed the fact that the Convention would enter into force on 26 December 1996 and called upon more countries to take appropriate action for the ratification, acceptance or approval of, accession to the Convention. It also decided that the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention should be held from 29 September to 10 October 1997 in Rome. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, subject to the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, to consider maintaining current administrative and financial arrangements to support the Convention beyond the first session of the Conference of the Parties until the permanent secretariat designated by the Conference of the Parties begins operating, which should not be later than 31 December 1998.

8. In its resolution 51/..., entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" the General Assembly welcomed the results of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Jakarta from 6 to 17 November 1995 and encouraged States that had not yet ratified the Convention to do so. In addition, it invited the Executive Secretary of the Convention to provide information on the experience gained under the Convention to the special session of the General Assembly as well as welcomed the work being carried out to enhance cooperation with CSD.

9. In its resolution 51/..., entitled "Protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind", the General Assembly considered a number of transitional administrative arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the biennium 1996-1997. It took note with appreciation of the scientific contributions to the convention process of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), UNEP and also took note of its second assessment report, as the most comprehensive assessment available to date of the issues related to global climate change.

10. In its resolution 51/..., entitled "Effects of atomic radiation", the General Assembly, while expressing its concern about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which mankind and the environment are exposed, commended the work of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) and requested it to continue its work. In that context, the Assembly requested UNEP to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and disseminating of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public.

11. In its resolution 51/..., entitled "International trade and development", the General Assembly endorsed the outcome of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held at Midrand, South Africa, April/May 1996, and devoted considerable attention to the question of trade and environment. The General Assembly deplored, inter alia, any attempt to bypass or undermine multilaterally agreed procedures on the conduct of international trading by resorting to unilateral actions over and above those agreed in the Uruguay Round and affirmed that environmental and social concerns should not be used for protectionist purposes. It reaffirmed that Governments should ensure that trade and environmental policies were mutually supportive in order to achieve sustainable development and that, in doing so, their environmental policies and measures with a potential trade impact should not be used for protectionist purposes. It recognized the important progress made in various forums in understanding the relationship between trade and environment and requested UNCTAD to continue its work in that area in cooperation with relevant international organizations, including UNEP.

12. In the context of the UNEP programme in the area of trade and environment, the recommendations of the General Assembly are of utmost importance to UNEP undertakings and the concern expressed by the General Assembly about protectionist measures will have to be fully taken into account by UNEP when elaborating its further work programme in that area.

13. In its resolution 51/..., entitled "Question of Antarctica", the General Assembly took note of the note of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica and the role accorded UNEP by the Secretary-General in the preparation of his report. It also recalled the statement under chapter 17 of Agenda 21 to the effect that States carrying out research activities in Antarctica should ensure that data and information resulting from such research were freely available to the international community and that they should enhance its access to that information. In that context, the General Assembly welcomed the invitation to the Executive Director of UNEP to attend Antarctic Treaty consultative meetings in order to assist such meetings in their substantive work, and urged the parties to continue to do so for future consultative meetings.

14. At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly also adopted resolution 51/..., entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)", in which it endorsed the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda as adopted at the Conference. It called upon all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to implement fully and effectively the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration. It also requested all the

relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to identify the specific actions that they would undertake, within their mandates, towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to inform the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) of their actions and subsequently to report on them to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council. With regard to the major goal of the Habitat Agenda - namely, achievement of sustainable human settlements - UNEP is furthering its cooperation with Habitat through, inter alia, the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP). This cooperation is outlined in document UNEP/GC.19/8, which is before the Council. UNEP is also continuing the provision of assistance and advice to local communities and authorities through its International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) and its Industry and Environment Office.

15. The General Assembly also adopted resolution 51/..., entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States", in which, inter alia, it requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with UNCTAD, UNEP and other relevant United Nations and non-United Nations organizations, to prepare a report, based on the views of relevant experts, on a vulnerability index for small island developing States.

16. In its resolution 51/..., entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction", the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the above subject and underlined the need for the United Nations system to ensure the integration of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action to the coordinated approach taken to the follow-up to all recent major United Nations conferences and summit meetings and to the implementation of their respective plans of action. The role of UNEP in the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy was outlined in the main body of that report.

17. In its substantive resolution 51/..., entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women", the General Assembly requested all United Nations system organizations to implement the Beijing Platform for Action, in particular by promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective at all levels. The work done thus far by UNEP in this regard is outlined in document UNEP/GC.19/9.

18. In its resolution 51/..., entitled "Mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s", the General Assembly recognized the complementary role of the United Nations system-wide Special Initiative for Africa in the implementation of the New Agenda and requested all organizations and programmes of the system to take, as a matter of urgency, concrete and effective measures in order to implement fully the recommendations contained in the report of Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, and to do so in a coordinated manner.

19. In addition, the General Assembly adopted three resolutions under the agenda item on law of the sea, which are of relevance to the global environmental agenda. One of these resolutions, 51/..., relates to the

conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and resolution 51/... relates to large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and fisheries by-catch and discards.

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THE ENVIRONMENT FUND AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER BUDGETARY MATTERS

Revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and Revision of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme

UNITED NATIONS COLLECTION

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

This report sets out proposals for a revision of the Financial Rules of the Environment Fund and the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Environment Fund.

Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Governing Council,

Approves the proposals of the Executive Director for a revision of the Financial Rules and the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Environment Fund, as contained in document UNEP/GC.19/3.

Introduction

1. The Governing Council, by its decision 18/42, paragraph 15, agreed that "pending a formal revision of the Financial Rules and General Procedures of the Fund, to be undertaken by the Council at its nineteenth session, the term "programme and programme support costs" in those Rules and Procedures shall be understood as referring to management and administrative support costs". This document proposes that this change in nomenclature be formally adopted in the Rules and Procedures of the Fund and, in addition, proposes a few

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other changes that appear to the Executive Director to be appropriate at the present time.

The Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme

2. It is proposed that:

(a) Where the expression "programme and programme support costs" is used (rules 209.1, 210.1, 211.2, 211.5 and 212.1), it shall be replaced by the expression "management and administrative support costs". This would regularize the use of the new budget nomenclature.

(b) In rule 201.4, the reference to "ST/SGB/Financial Rules/1 shall read "ST/SGB/Financial Rules/Rev.3 (1985)". This is merely a technical amendment to reflect the current edition of the Secretary-General's Rules.

(c) In rule 203.3, it is suggested that prior approval should only be sought from the Governing Council in the event of a contribution "in excess of $1 million" rather than "in excess of $100,000", as now. This is in line with the UNEP aggressive fund-raising strategy.

(d) In rule 204.1, it is suggested that the words "or others" be inserted after the words "supporting organizations". This would permit the acceptance by the Executive Director of contributions from profit-making organizations earmarked for specific services or activities.

(e) In rule 206.2, since there are no "Fund" offices away from headquarters, it is suggested that the first word of the rule, "Fund", be replaced by the words "United Nations Environment Programme".

General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme

3. The following amendments are proposed:

(a) That in article I(r), the definition of "Expenditure" be deleted and replaced by: "Expenditure means the amount charged against income in a given period, whether paid or unpaid". The present definition does not reflect the fact that, since 1979, the UNEP Financial Report and Financial Statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and that a definition of expenditure based on disbursements only is no longer the practice followed.

(b) That in Article VI, paragraph 3(c), the expression "Programme and programme support costs" be replaced by "Management and administrative support costs".

(c) That in Article VI, paragraph 5, the final sentence "The Executive Director shall also submit to the Governing Council for approval any project which he considers should be executed directly by the Executive Director" be deleted. Although the Executive Director has always indicated to the Governing Council in the Programme Budget document those activities which she proposes to implement directly through internal project documents, it has never been the practice for the Governing Council to concern itself with the approval of project documents. Therefore, the Executive Director feels that this reality should be reflected in the "Procedures".

(d) That in Article VIII the following words be added to paragraph 5: "The project document shall also specify any activities which may be implemented in collaboration with third party cooperating agencies and supporting organizations under a memorandum of understanding, letter of agreement or Host Government agreement".

The purpose of this amendment is to clarify the means by which activities included within an approved project document may be implemented by

cooperating agencies or supporting organizations under a memorandum of agreement, letter of agreement or Host Government agreement, as has been the practice of UNEP in the past.

(e) That in Article VIII the words "Environment Co-ordination Board" appearing in paragraph 6 be deleted and be replaced by the words "Administrative Committee on Coordination". The Environment Co-ordination Board was merged many years ago and its functions integrated with those of ACC, which is now the body that reports to the Governing Council.

(f) That in Article XI, paragraph 2 be deleted and be substituted by a new paragraph 2 as follows:

> " 2. Where it is considered to be a more effective means of implementing the Fund programme, the Executive Director may authorize the execution of a specific activity or group of activities, included within an approved project document, through a memorandum of understanding, letter of agreement or Host Government agreement with a cooperating agency or supporting organization".

The purpose of this amendment is, first, to delete paragraph 2 so as to make Article XI accord with Article VI, paragraph 5, as amended by (c) above and, second, to outline the means by which individual activities or groups of activities included under umbrella project documents may be executed separately under separate instruments by cooperating agencies or supporting organizations.

(g) That in Article XIII the paragraph present be numbered "1." and a second paragraph be added as follows:

> "2. The Executive Director may also accept contributions in the form of staff or other facilities from Governments, government institutions, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and private corporations".

The heading of this Article would then be amended to read "Facilities provided by agencies and others".

The purpose of these proposed amendments is to reflect the fact that the Executive Director has been encouraged by the Governing Council to accept contributions in the form of staff, equipment, etc. over and above cash contributions to the Fund and the practice should, perhaps, be reflected in the revised "Procedures."

(h) That in Section III, paragraph 8 be deleted, as it is no longer of any relevance and that the section, headed "Conditions for the Estimation of Future Resources and their Apportionment", be headed "Chapter IV" and the number "III" be deleted. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this chapter would then become paragraphs 1 and 2 of "Article XV" and paragraphs 3 to 7 would become paragraphs 1 to 5 of "Article XVI".

(i) That the section headed "IV. General Guidelines for the Execution of Projects" be headed "Chapter V", and the number IV be deleted.

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THE ENVIRONMENT FUND AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER BUDGETARY MATTERS

Management of Trust Funds

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

There were 57 trust funds in operation during 1996, six of which - three technical cooperation trust funds and three general trust funds - were established after the eighteenth session of the Governing Council. Twenty of these funds were general trust funds, 20 were general technical cooperation trust funds, 16 were technical cooperation trust funds and one was a general trust fund for which UNEP plays the role of Treasurer only. The present report brings to the attention of the Governing Council the necessary details on the newly established trust funds and the trust funds on which the Governing Council is being requested to take action. The financial status of the trust funds will be presented to the Governing Council in a separate document, together with information on the Environment Fund and other sources of funding.

Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council may wish to:

1. Note and approve the establishment of the following trust funds since the eighteenth session of the Governing Council:

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(a) The General Trust Fund in Support of the Work of the Government Designated Group of Experts on Chemical Risk Reduction, which was established in 1996 to contribute towards UNEP activities and projects consistent with Governing Council decision 18/12, in support of the work of the Government-designated Group of Experts on Further Measures to Reduce the Risks from a Limited Number of Hazardous Chemicals. The Trust Fund's initial expiry date is 31 December 1997;

(b) The General Trust Fund in Support of the Preparation and Negotiation of an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade, which was established in 1995. The Trust Fund's initial expiry date is 31 December 1997;

(c) The General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), which was established in 1996 to support the programmes and activities of the African Ministerial Conference of the Environment. The Trust Fund's initial expiry date is 31 December 1998;

(d) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Organization of a Technology Transfer Workshop on the Implementation of the Montreal protocol for French Speaking African Countries (financed by the Government of France), which was established in 1996. The Trust Fund's expiry date is 31 December 1996;

(e) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Network for Environmental Training at Tertiary Level in Asia and the Pacific (NETTLAP) (financed by the Government of Denmark). The Trust Fund's initial expiry date is 31 December 1998;

(f) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the Government of Australia), which was established in 1995. The Trust Fund does not have a fixed expiry date, as is the case with other Junior Professional Officer (JPO) trust funds;

2. Note and approve the extension of the following trust funds by the Executive Director:

Name of trust fund	Establishment date	Proposed expiry date
Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal	1993	31 December 2002
Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal	1993	31 December 2002
General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity	1994	31 December 1997

Name of trust fund	Establishment date	Proposed expiry date
General Trust Fund in Support of the Work of the Government-designated Group of Experts on Chemical Risk Reduction	1996	31 December 1997
General Trust Fund in Support of the Preparation and Negotiation of an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade	1995	31 December 1997
Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support National Land Degradation Assessment and Mapping in Kenya (financed by the Government of the Netherlands)	1993	31 December 1996

3. Approve the extension of the following trust funds by the Executive Director, subject to UNEP receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:

Name of trust fund	Establishment date	Proposed expiry date
General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)	1996	31 December 2000
General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity	1994	31 December 2000
Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme	1981	31 December 2000
Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern Africa Region	1986	31 December 1999
Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas	1981	31 December 1999
Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean	1989	31 December 1999
Regional Trust Fund for Protection and Development of Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of Bahrain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates	1978	31 December 1999

Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution	1979	31 December 1999
Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	1990	31 December 2000
Trust Fund for the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	1986	31 December 2000
General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region	1995	31 December 1999
Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	1989	31 December 2000
Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region	1981	31 December 1999
Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Consultancies to Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Finland)	1986	31 December 1997
Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Institutional and Regulatory Capacity of Developing Countries in Africa (financed by the Government of the Netherlands)	1993	31 December 1999
Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Activities in Developing Countries on Environmental Awareness and Machinery (financed by the Government of Germany)	1988	31 December 1999
Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP's Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Global Environment Facility	1991	31 December 1999
Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Sweden)	1990	31 December 1999
INFOTERRA Technical Cooperation Trust Fund (financed by the Government of the United States)	1990	31 December 1999
Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Activities on Environmental Issues (financed by the Government of Japan)	1994	Not fixed

Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Develop and Coordinate the Implementation of the Plan for the Survey, Assessment and Dealing with the Consequences of Environmental Damage caused by Conflict between Kuwait and Iraq	1991	31 December 1999
Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol (financed by the Government of Finland)	1990	31 December 1999

4. To note and approve the closure of the following trust funds by the Executive Director:

Name of trust fund	Establishment date	Expiry date
Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to strengthen the capacities of Developing Countries in the Management of Chemicals (financed by the Government of Switzerland)	1993	31 December 1995
Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support National Land Degradation Assessment and Mapping in Kenya (financed by the Government of the Netherlands)	1993	31 December 1996

I. TRUST FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

1. In the biennium 1994-1995, UNEP received cash contributions to trust funds (excluding the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer) totalling $84.10 million, as compared to $59.7 million in the biennium 1992-1993. However, the contributions received in 1995 - $37.01 million - were approximately $10 million less than those received in 1994, because of the significant reduction in contributions to technical cooperation trust funds (excluding personnel trust funds), which fell from a record level of $23.79 million in 1994 to $5.49 million in 1995. Contributions to general trust funds continued to rise, mainly due to the establishment of the Trust Fund for the Convention for Biological Diversity and increases in the contribution levels of other trust funds financing the activities of various convention secretariats administered by UNEP.

2. Despite this, the general trust funds financing the activities of secretariats still quite often experience resource shortfalls, particularly at the beginning of the year. These shortfalls have necessitated advances from the Environment Fund to allow for undisrupted implementation of approved activities. Because of the increasingly low level of resources available in the Environment Fund, convention secretariats will not be able to depend on advances in future. The Governing Council may wish to remind the Parties contributing to these general trust funds to abide strictly to their terms of reference, which require resources to be available before any commitments can be made.

II. COUNTERPART CONTRIBUTIONS

3. As the number of trust funds has grown, UNEP has also witnessed an increase in counterpart contributions. In 1994-1995, UNEP received counterpart contributions in convertible currencies totalling $14.22 million compared with $14.12 million received in 1992-93 and $11.82 million received in 1990-1991. Counterpart contributions have been accepted as earmarked funds for specific activities both for Environment Fund Programme projects as well as for convention secretariats and other trust fund activities. In fact, in recent years, the bulk of counterpart contributions have been in support of convention secretariat activities. In the 1994-95 biennium, of the total counterpart contribution expenditure of $11.78 million, $8.92 million, or 76 per cent, was in support of convention activities and only $2.58 million, or 22 per cent, in support of Environment Fund projects. However, acceptance of counterpart contributions under trust fund rules has recently been questioned. The implications of this situation are dealt with in the report on the cost of administering trust funds, prepared in response to Governing Council decision 18/44, which will be before the Governing Council at its nineteenth session. A typical use of a counterpart contribution is to provide funds for a specific seminar or to finance developing country participation in environmental meetings. Counterpart contributions have also been channelled towards funding the activities of interim secretariats for conventions before the actual secretariat is established and respective trust funds set up.

4. Detailed financial information on counterpart contributions will be before the Council in a separate document, together with information on the Environment Fund and other sources of funding. It is foreseen that during the biennium 1996-1997 conventions will continue to receive substantial support in contributions earmarked for specific activities. It is also foreseen that earmarked counterpart contributions in support of specific Environment Fund programme activities will continue to grow, possibly at the expense of general contributions to the Environment Fund.

III. TRUST FUND PROGRAMME SUPPORT

5. UNEP deducts from the income of the trust funds it administers an administrative support charge to meet the costs of providing services relating to accounting, personnel, reporting, etc. The level of this support charge is that approved by the General Assembly in section V of its resolution 35/217 of 17 December 1980. These charges are credited to a special account established for programme support costs. They are reported in the Organization's financial statements and are subject to audit by the Internal Audit Division and by the United Nations Board of External Auditors. In the biennium 1994-1995, income to the special account for trust fund support costs was $7.39 million, while expenditure for the same period totalled $7.09 million. The financial details of the trust funds programme support are contained in the document referred to in paragraph 4 above.

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THE ENVIRONMENT FUND AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER BUDGETARY MATTERS

Developments in conference-servicing

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

By its decision 18/43 of 25 May 1995, the Governing Council approved the attachment of UNEP administrative and conference-servicing staff to a new United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON). The present report outlines the impact of that decision on conference-servicing and the level of UNEP's financial support to the new UNON Conference Services. In addition, at its eighteenth session, the Governing Council adopted decision 18/45, on new developments in conference-servicing, and requested the Executive Director to submit a report to the Council at its nineteenth session on the issues referred to in that decision. Accordingly, the present report also outlines the developments instituted by the former UNEP Conference Services up to 31 December 1995, and further provides details on how these developments are being carried forward by UNON Conference Services since ther

Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council may wish to take note of the present report of the Executive Director.

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I. INCORPORATION OF UNEP CONFERENCE-SERVICES INTO UNON

1. At the eighteenth session of the Governing Council the Executive Director reported (UNEP/GC.18/32/Add.1) on the proposed establishment on 1 January 1996 of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), to which UNEP administrative and conference-servicing staff were to be attached. The establishment of UNON and the attachment of UNEP administrative and conference-servicing staff took place as scheduled. The transition of conference services from a UNEP to a UNON service was smooth, with no disruptions to the work of any of the organizations concerned.

2. Up to 31 December 1996, the Environment Fund will continue to provide approximately 80 per cent of the support (staff, equipment, supplies etc. - in excess of $3 million annually) for UNON Conference Services under the management and administrative support costs (MASC) budget, although UNEP receives less than 50 per cent of the output of Conference Services. In effect, part of the Environment Fund's support for Conference Services has been used to subsidize the costs of the Governing Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, costs that should be covered by United Nations regular budget. In addition, the Environment Fund has subsidized conference-servicing costs under certain environmental conventions for which UNEP performs the secretariat functions. In view of the inequitable funding arrangements for conference-servicing, as well as the effects of the current financial crisis, from 1 January 1997 the management and administrative support costs (MASC) budget will be amended to provide minimal support (approximately $300,000) in line with UNEP's reduced conference-servicing requirements. This support will combine with United Nations regular budget funding to jointly provide UNON Conference Services with core conference-servicing staff. Under these budgetary changes, UNEP's MASC requirements will therefore fall by more than $2.9 million, a reduction that will be reflected in the revised estimates for the MASC budget for the biennium 1996-1997, which will be before the Council at its nineteenth session.

3. From 1 January 1998, this transitional arrangement will cease, and UNEP will no longer provide institutional support for UNON Conference Services from its MASC budget. Thenceforth, UNEP will only pay for the services it directly receives and it is expected that the other clients of UNON Conference Services will do likewise. In keeping with the division between MASC and programme activities, the Executive Director has decided that conference-servicing costs should be met by the requesting office. Since conference-servicing costs form an essential component of UNEP's project expenditures, they will in future be budgeted for within and charged to the respective subprogrammes. Similarly, where conference services are requested by MASC-funded units (Office of the Executive Director (OED), Fund Programme Management Branch (FPMB), Programme Support Services (PSS), Corporate Planning and Accountability Service (CPAS), Ombudsman, etc.), the appropriate direct costs will be charged to the MASC budget. These charges will be clearly levied for services rendered and are not to be confused with the previous institutional funding of a conference service from the MASC budget. It is expected that the greater transparency of reflecting direct conference-servicing costs in the programme and MASC budgets will promote improved efficiency and economy and reduce UNEP's overall conference- servicing costs.

4. UNON Conference Services now face the broader challenge of meeting the demands of a range of clients which include UNEP, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat), convention secretariats and other United Nations organizations and specialized agencies. UNON Conference Services have therefore devised a system of costing services rendered to the various client organizations that will accurately levy charges for actual work undertaken to the specific, requesting organization.

II. TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS TO CONFERENCE SERVICES

5. After initial development under UNEP, UNON Conference Services has continued and further refined its methods of servicing meetings outside Nairobi using remote translation. From June 1995 to June 1996, Conference Services provided remote translation for eight meetings, in addition to its regular workload for meetings and documents in Nairobi. Utilizing its experience with remote translation via electronic communication, Conference Services is now joining the network of other United Nations conference-servicing units - New York, Geneva (UNOG) and Vienna (UNOV). These conference services mutually reinforce one another by assisting in the translation workload on a reciprocal basis during slack periods. Furthermore, thanks to the improved electronic communications, UNON Conference Services can now make increased use of external translation.

6. UNON Conference Services can, as in the past, provide delegates with diskettes containing meeting documents. This process has been carried a step further: pre-, in- and post-session meeting documentation can now be posted on the Internet for interested Governments and other parties to retrieve.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES FOR THE USE OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES AT GIGIRI, NAIROBI

7. In addition to the Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation fax, telex, telephone and mail services available at Gigiri, UNEP has established electronic network services, including electronic mail, which is already accessed by some missions in Nairobi, and will be available as an unsecured service to Government delegations by prior arrangement.

IV. ON-SITE INTERPRETATION AT GIGIRI, NAIROBI

8. In accordance with Governing Council decisions 17/34 and 18/45, the Executive Director has kept under review the issue of providing on-site interpretation at Gigiri, Nairobi. The financial viability of establishing a permanent team of interpreters at Nairobi has been carefully assessed in the light of the establishment of UNON and the creation of a common Conference Services for all Nairobi-based organizations. The annual cost to the United Nations regular budget of a permanent interpretation team has been estimated at $1.7 million. The current level of demand for interpretation at Gigiri, Nairobi (37 working days in 1995; 5 in 1996) gives no basis for establishing a permanent team. Projected reductions in resources available for programme activities are also likely to reduce the demand for interpretation. The establishment of a permanent interpretation team is

therefore precluded for the foreseeable future. UNON Conference Services will, however, be actively involved in the ongoing experiments with remote interpretation being carried out within the United Nations system with a view to achieving future savings over the current cost of interpretation at Gigiri, Nairobi.

V. REDUCTION OF GOVERNING COUNCIL AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION

9. As at the previous session, the Executive Director has attempted to limit documents as far as possible, for the present session to a maximum of four pages. As requested by the Governing Council in paragraph 9 of its decision 18/45, the Executive Director has also encouraged all convention secretariats administered by UNEP to follow the same practice. However, it should be noted that the technical nature of reports submitted to meetings of the Convention may prohibit adherence to the four-page rule.

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THE ENVIRONMENT FUND AND ADMINISTRATIVE
AND OTHER BUDGETARY MATTERS

Prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement
Report by the Executive Director

Summary

The present report is prepared in accordance with Governing Council decision 18/46 of 25 May 1995, by which the Council, inter alia, requested the Executive Director, in consultation with the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the United Nations in New York, to formulate and enact a specific plan of action for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) concerning the need to combat waste, fraud and mismanagement, and to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth regular session.

Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council may wish to:

1. Take note of the present report of the Executive Director on the need to combat waste, fraud and mismanagement in relation to UNEP;

2. Agree, that as part of the United Nations, UNEP is bound by instructions from the United Nations Headquarters, and it would therefore be wasteful duplication to formulate and enact a specific plan of action;

3. Encourage the Executive Director to continue to maintain close contact with the Office of Internal Oversight Services in the United Nations Headquarters;

4. Urge the Executive Director to further pursue a comprehensive management reform programme, with particular reference to those improvements aimed at eliminating waste, fraud and mismanagement.

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I. UNEP'S PARTICIPATION WITHIN UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVES TO COMBAT WASTE, FRAUD AND MISMANAGEMENT

1. As part of the United Nations, UNEP is bound by the various regulations, rules and instructions promulgated by the United Nations Secretariat to combat waste, fraud and mismanagement. By maintaining close contact with the Office of Internal Oversight Services, UNEP ensures that it gives effect to all the measures, which are devised for the United Nations at large, to combat waste, fraud and mismanagement.

2. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, the Secretary-General has established a reporting facility within the Office of Internal Oversight Services to provide for direct confidential access by staff members and other persons engaged in activities under the authority of the organization who wish to report the possible misuse of funds, waste or abuse of United Nations facilities or privileges, or who wish to make proposals for the improvement of programme delivery. United Nations administrative instruction ST/AI/397 of 7 September 1994, giving effect to the arrangements established by the Secretary-General, was distributed to all members of the staff in UNEP on 31 October 1994, under cover of information circular IC/Nairobi/1994/8373. Copies of these documents are available in English on request.

3. Similarly, the United Nations information circular ST/IC/96/29 of 25 April 1996, entitled "Terms of reference for investigations by the Office of Internal Oversight Services: 'mismanagement, misconduct, waste of resources and abuse of authority'", containing, among other things, definitions of misconduct and unsatisfactory performance – as required by Governing Council decision 18/46 – was distributed to all members of the staff in UNEP on 25 June and 3 July 1996. Copies of these documents are likewise available in English on request.

4. Under the circumstances described, and particularly given the instructions from United Nations Headquarters, it would have been wasteful duplication to have formulated and enacted a specific plan of action for UNEP, or to have established definitions of categories of misconduct specific to UNEP, since these already exist for the United Nations as a whole.

5. In the particular instance of fraud, there have been only two cases reported in UNEP over the past 15 years. Nor are there any indications that UNEP suffers disproportionately to the rest of the United Nations from the incidence of waste and mismanagement.

II. ADDITIONAL EFFORTS BY UNEP TO COUNTER POTENTIAL WASTE, FRAUD AND MISMANAGEMENT

6. UNEP remains vigilant. As such, in order to try and prevent any occurrences of fraud, waste and mismanagement, UNEP is revising its personnel management guidelines in order to highlight the risks of such occurrences. Topics already covered include:

(a) Recruitment (to headquarters, regional offices and outposted offices);

(b) The presentation of cases to the Appointment and Promotion Board and the Appointment and Promotion Panel;

(c) Application for the granting of a special post allowance;

(d) Administration of the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programme;

(e) Administration of the internship programme;

(f) Application for and the granting of home leave;

(g) Application for and the granting of rental subsidy; and

(h) The inclusion of training to raise awareness on issues of waste, fraud and mismanagement in UNEP's induction procedures for new staff.

7. UNEP is implementing a comprehensive management reform programme tailored to its own needs. These have already produced significant programmatic, organizational and structural improvements, aimed at further enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of UNEP's programme-delivery capability. In the September 1996 Progress Report of the Efficiency Board to the Secretary-General, titled UN 21, better service, better value, better management, UNEP was given special mention for its 1996-1997 work programme. The work programme was complimented for its organization and ease of comprehension and the way in which it invites comments and questions about programme performance and focus. The Efficiency Board also noted the improvements made to the management-reporting system so that reports are more clearly focused on performance. Other examples of programmatic, organizational and structural improvements include:

(a) The consolidation of subprogrammes from 12 to 5;

(b) The enhanced coordination, by the Environmental Assessment Division, of all assessment activities and specialized databases within the meta-database;

(c) The changes to the organizational structure of UNEP to ensure effective implementation of the integrated 1996-1997 work programme and to achieve better efficiency, which has thus far resulted in a 10 per cent reduction in programme personnel;

(d) The establishment by UNEP, with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA), of an Environmental Unit in the Relief Coordination Branch of DHA in Geneva to coordinate the response of environmental emergencies;

(e) The creation of a common administration, the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), which has led to a 10 per cent reduction in administrative personnel and other costs and, at the same time, improved the efficiency of administrative functions performed and the quality of services delivered.

8. In addition to these self-generated administrative and management improvements, UNEP is, of course, also subject to regular auditing by the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 74 (I) of 7 December 1946 and article XIV of the Financial Rules of UNEP.

9. As required by Governing Council decision 18/46, the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the accounts of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium ended 31 December 1995 is being circulated to the Governing Council as information document UNEP/GC.19/INF.1. In addition to its audit of UNEP's accounts and financial transactions, the Board carried out reviews of the efficiency of budgeting procedures, the internal financial controls, programme planning, monitoring and evaluation and, in general, the administration and management of UNEP, including that of the procurement of goods and services. The results of the Board's reviews of these procedures are contained in the above-mentioned document. Additionally, the document contains a status report of the implementation of the Board of Auditors' recommendations.

10. Apart from the "external auditors", UNEP is also subject to an "internal audit" administered by Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) at United Nations Headquarters. The internal auditors systematically scrutinize UNEP functions; make recommendations, as appropriate; and monitor UNEP's implementation of the recommendations. UNEP reports to OIOS on a quarterly basis on the implementation of their recommendations. This is another way in which there is constant surveillance of any potential waste, fraud and mismanagement.

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THE ENVIRONMENT FUND AND ADMINISTRATIVE
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Prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement
Report by the Executive Director

Addendum

Achieving significant efficiencies in the Organization

1. Building on the positive results achieved so far with the implementation of its comprehensive management reform programme (see paragraph 7 of document UNEP/GC.19/6), the Secretariat is undertaking steps to realize further efficiencies in the Organization. These are three-fold.

Managerial reporting system

2. Between February and May 1996, the Secretariat undertook an efficiency review on managerial reporting within the framework of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management's initiative towards "Achieving significant efficiencies in the Organization". This review looked into ways and means of streamlining and increasing the efficiency of managerial reporting, with the objective of reducing the reporting burden on managers and staff, while simultaneously increasing the effectiveness of reporting as a managerial tool. Implementation of the 12 recommendations formulated in the review is expected to lead to cost savings of about $ 200,000 a year.

3. For the implementation of one of these recommendations, the Secretariat has prepared a blueprint of a system for the efficient and effective

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management of programme/project information. The conceptual design of the managerial reporting system has been completed, based on an integrated system of databases and document libraries accessible over internet/intranet. The development of the system was initiated with available hardware and human resources.

4. The strategy to be implemented during the second phase which is now under way is primarily based on intelligent use of the Information Technology (IT) that combines best approaches and tools. It will involve re-engineering of the necessary processes for simplifying work practices and eliminating redundant functions, thereby providing maximum value for investment in IT.

5. The expected results are:

(a) Timely and accurate information for management decision-making, resulting in a better performing organization;

(b) Savings in staff time for reporting while increasing staff time available for substantive activities; and

(c) Overall productivity enhancements through simplified and/or streamlined processes and automated procedures for routine tasks.

6. The Secretariat aims to have an operational system in place by the beginning of the biennium 1998-1999.

Implementation of evaluation, audit and OIOS review recommendations

7. An in-depth evaluation of the Environment Programme was carried out in 1995. Every year, an external auditors' report is produced, and internal auditors' reports are issued periodically. In September 1996, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) at United Nations Headquarters conducted a review of UNEP's programme and administrative practices, and a report with findings and recommendations is expected in November 1996.

8. Most of the findings and recommendations for implementation contained in the above-mentioned reports relate to management improvement, efficiency enhancement, and cost savings. It is therefore essential that the recommendations originating from evaluations and audits are implemented fully, consistently and in time.

9. The Secretariat is refining a system to improve the implementation of evaluation and audit recommendations and to monitor the implementation process.

10. For this purpose, an implementation plan will be prepared by managers, with specific deadlines for the various steps to be taken to fully achieve the objectives of the recommendations. Such implementation plans will contain performance indicators and means of verification to establish the successful execution of each recommendation.

Other measures

11. An Advisory Group has been set up to support and assist the efficiency review process, to identify further measures to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

12. Interested UNEP and UNON staff and members of the Staff Association have been invited to participate in the work of the Advisory Group on Efficiency (AGE). The Staff Association and several individuals in both UNEP and UNON have already proposed a number of measures to enhance the productivity of the Organization. The Advisory Group on Efficiency will build on these efforts, thereby ensuring that further efficiency improvements will be introduced as a collective effort to increase efficiency and reduce operational costs in an appropriate, non-disruptive and constructive manner.

13. AGE will establish criteria for the prioritization and selection of activities for efficiency improvement; it will prepare a programme of work and ensure that proper monitoring techniques are used to achieve the desired results. Immediate activities will be planned up to the end of December 1996, as part of a continuous process, drawing on the experience of other organizations and departments in the United Nations system.

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POLICY ISSUES: COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP's effort towards the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa: 1995-1996

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 35/73 of 5 December 1980 and 39/168 B of 17 December 1984, which requested the Governing Council to report, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (PACD). It also responds to Governing Council decision 18/26 of 26 May 1995, in which the Council requested the Executive Director to report to the Council at its nineteenth session on the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Partnership to Combat Desertification and on the activities undertaken with a view to implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD).

The report summarizes the progress achieved in the period 1995-1996 towards the implementation of the UNCCD, including through the Partnership agreement with the UNDP Office to Combat Desertification (UNSO). It also puts forward proposed actions which the Council might wish to consider.

* UNEP/GC.19/1.

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Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council may wish to:

1. Express its support for ongoing efforts by the United Nations Environment Programme to support the development of an updated assessment methodology for drylands and desertification, including the development of appropriate indicators, based on improved national approaches involving communities, as well as its efforts in increasing awareness of desertification and in disseminating targeted information materials to a range of media;

2. Encourage the Executive Director to maintain the function of UNEP as a global centre of excellence on desertification control, promoting cooperation and coordination of worldwide efforts to combat desertification and to continue and intensify research and development collaboration with leading world scientific institutions and centres of excellence on desertification and land degradation and drought issues, particularly on the social and economic aspects of these problems, within the limits of available resources as proposed on the 1998-1999 programme of work;

3. Request the Executive Director to participate actively in assisting Governments and non-governmental and community-based organizations to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the resolution on urgent action for Africa adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Convention (INCD) and to support, within the limits of available resources, the interim secretariat of the Convention;

4. Express its support for the proposal made by UNEP to INCD to provide administrative support for the Permanent Secretariat, in accordance with the mandates given it by the General Assembly and Governing Council to support the INCD and the implementation of the UNCCD and assist coordination of convention secretariats in general;

5. Authorize the Executive Director to submit, on behalf of the Council, her report on UNEP's efforts towards the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 1995 and 1996, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

I. UNEP'S EFFORT TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

1. The present report is structured according to the four programme foci for desertification control activities approved by the Governing Council at its eighteenth session: the assessment of land degradation; improving global awareness of dryland and desertification issues; promoting action in support of the UNCCD, and improving understanding of the social dimensions of land degradation and promoting sustainable practices of land management. During 1996, progress has been constrained by lack of available resources. Nevertheless, progress has been achieved.

A. Assessment of land degradation

2. Three regional pilot projects and training centres in Africa, Eastern Europe and West Asia were established for soils and terrain database compilation and the interpretation of land degradation assessment, the risks of soil erosion and food-producing capacities. An assessment of the status of human-induced soil degradation was completed in 15 countries in South and South-East Asia at a scale of 1:5 million. Work on updating of the UNEP database on desertification continued and the material is being prepared for use in the production of a revised World Atlas of Desertification.

3. UNEP, as part of a global initiative, supported activities in eight southern African countries to compile and evaluate soil and water conservation practices and disseminate information on sustainable soil and water conservation systems to countries with similar environments. The Kenya National Land Degradation Assessment and Mapping project, funded by the Government of the Netherlands and hosted by UNEP was completed.

4. UNEP continued to work closely with other organizations, including with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), on enhancing knowledge on soil biodiversity for sustainable tropical agriculture; with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) in preparing a policy paper on environment and rural development and with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on guidelines for integrated planning and management of land resources. In addition, UNEP sponsored an expert workshop to assess the prospects of carbon storage in dryland soils and its impact on mitigating climate change. The results have been published.

B. Awareness-raising

5. During the period under review, major focus was given to planning, contract negotiation and implementation of a project to produce a revised version of the World Atlas of Desertification, based on an updating of the UNEP database on desertification. The Atlas will be published in 1997, in paper and electronic formats.

6. Three issues of the Desertification Control Bulletin were issued, the special issue of Our Planet on desertification was reprinted and a summary pamphlet of its contents was produced. Work was completed on the publications Social Aspects of Sustainable Dryland Management, the Directory of Arid Lands Research Institutions and The Social Dimensions of Desertification: An Annotated Bibliography and Literature Review, and copies of publications and other documents on desertification control were widely disseminated, by post, at major international conferences, INCD sessions and technical meetings.

7. UNEP also used the major international conferences to distribute other material on desertification. In cooperation with Television Trust for the Environment (TVE), two films highlighting the effects on women of desertification were made for the Fourth World Conference on Women, two on rural-urban migration for United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and one on drylands and food security for the World Food Summit.

8. An awareness-raising programme on the drylands targeting younger children, including a jigsaw, quiz and puzzle book, as well as information and display material, was presented at the Eastbourne Children's Conference, which was co-sponsored by UNEP and British Airways.

9. UNEP has entered into partnership with the Government of South Africa and the national non-governmental organization (NGO) focal point on desertification to develop community-based awareness campaigns as part of preparing the national action programme on desertification control. Resources are being sought in the private sector for the campaign.

10. During 1995, UNEP began a new initiative focusing on gender and the environment. In cooperation with the UNEP gender focal point and the Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI), a pilot project on gender and desertification was prepared for submission to donors. A desk-study of available studies and literature was completed.

11. As the task manager for reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development on progress in implementing chapter 12 of Agenda 21, UNEP has prepared the new thematic report on desertification for the five years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), for discussion in 1997.

12. Six regional training courses and workshops were organized on the management of dryland natural resources, sustainable food production, monitoring and assessment of desertification, expansion of new technologies and the provision of public information. A total of 232 participants from developing countries received instruction.

C. Promoting action

13. UNEP participated actively in the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Convention to Combat Desertification. UNEP continued to support the interim secretariat and its regional consultations. Collaboration with and support to NGOs

continued, with participation in the NGO Network on Desertification (RIOD), in village-level projects and for NGO attendance at the INCD sessions. UNEP has also offered to provide administrative support for the permanent secretariat for the Convention.

14. UNEP gave major focus to urgent action for Africa. In cooperation with the various subregional organizations, meetings were held to coordinate activities at subregional level, to launch subregional action-programme preparation and to determine the measures and mechanisms for implementing the Convention at the African level. UNEP assisted the INCD process in Africa working in cooperation with UNDP/UNSO, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), FAO, the Southern Africa Development Conference (SADC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA). UNEP continued to serve as the secretariat for the African Deserts and Arid Lands Committee (ADALCO), and a consultancy study was commissioned to consider how ADALCO could respond more effectively as the urgent action for Africa implementing arm. UNEP also helped launch the newly formed Regional Coordination Unit for Convention implementation in Africa.

15. UNEP also supported regional and subregional actions and networks in other regions: with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), through the Desertification Control Research and Training Network for Asia and the Pacific (DESCONAP); with the Conference of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment (CAMRE) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in West Asia and within the FAO/UNEP joint desertification programme for the Latin America region. In the latter, advisory services were provided on the follow-up of existing national plans of action to combat desertification (NPACD) in Chile, Mexico and Peru and a regional symposium was held in Argentina for NPACD coordinators. UNEP continued to support Governments in developing and initiating national action programmes in Bolivia, the Republic of Kalmykia (Russian Federation), Turkmenistan and Kazakstan.

16. Under the International Programme for Arid Land Crops (IPALAC), UNEP, with FAO, UNESCO and UNDP, enabled individuals from African countries to travel for training in Israel on dryland germplasm collection and management.

17. UNEP assisted the International Food Policy Research Institute in preparing A 2020 Vision for Food, Agriculture and the Environment and participated with FAO in preparing the background document Food Production and Environment Impact for the World Food Summit.

18. UNEP participated in and supported major international conferences with a view to enhancing information exchange on scientific and technical aspects of dryland degradation and assist in the establishment of worldwide research networks to address knowledge gaps pertinent to desertification and its linkage with other environmental problems.

19. Within the framework of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNEP held a joint workshop between GEF partners and desertification experts to design GEF-eligible land degradation programmes, projects and guidelines for establishing their incremental costs and value for global biodiversity, climate change and international waters.

20. The year 1996 saw the conclusion of a three year-long preparatory process of two multi-line, multi-agency projects for submission to GEF: People, Land Management and Environmental Change (PLEC) and the Desert Margins Initiative (DMI)

D. Social dimensions

21. UNEP continued its initiatives to document success stories in land management. The Saving the Drylands award was instituted in 1995 and awarded to eight projects. In 1996, projects in India, Sudan and Ethiopia were evaluated and those in India and Sudan were deemed worthy of the award. In addition, a report was prepared analysing the indicators of success and lessons learned from the evaluation of projects for the 1995 awards.

22. A series of reports on social aspects of desertification were released, including those prepared for UNEP by UNRISD on the linkages between dryland degradation and migration, and an annotated bibliography literature review of the social aspects of desertification. UNEP also produced reports on ongoing and recently completed land-management projects including community participation, on gender studies in Pakistan and on replicable innovations in micro-level land-use projects in Kenya.

II. UNEP-UNDP/UNSO PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

23. Assessment and awareness-raising were defined as the foci of joint activities under the 1995 UNEP/UNDP Partnership agreement. A joint programme was prepared to develop indicators for monitoring and assessment of desertification at national and local levels; assessment and monitoring of socio-economic impacts of desertification; and capacity-building in data and information management. A review of the desertification indicators proposed under chapter 12 of Agenda 21 was carried out at the request of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

24. Joint programme activities in awareness-raising focused especially on marking the World Day to Combat Desertification in cooperation with the Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI). The day was marked in both 1995 and 1996 by workshops exploring the perceptions of young people on the drylands and of other actors on the Convention and national preparatory processes for action programmes on desertification.

25. UNEP, UNDP/UNSO and the interim secretariat of UNCCD have undertaken to draw together a coordinated awareness-raising programme to build on the ongoing programmes of organizations active in desertification control. This programme should forge new partnerships, highlight programme gaps, assist in fund-raising for a major global programme to raise awareness on the drylands, and catalyse resources for desertification control.

26. In addition, joint support to Governments, subregional and regional organizations, especially in Africa has continued to enable them to participate in the INCD process and in formulating national and regional action programmes. Close cooperation with the World Bank led, inter alia, to assistance with the development of the land-degradation component of the Aral Sea Programme and on the Steering Committee of the Middle East Desertification Initiative.

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POLICY ISSUES: COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AND THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (UNCHS) (Habitat)

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report on cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat) has been prepared jointly by the secretariats of the two organizations in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985, resolution 8/14 of the Commission on Human Settlements (8 May 1985) and decision 13/12 of the Governing Council of UNEP (23 May 1985). It contains information on the joint activities of UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) under the four subject areas established by the joint Bureau meeting at the seventh session of the Commission on Human Settlements, as well as on other cooperative efforts, particularly during the run-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), which was held in Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996.

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Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council may wish to:

(a) Take note, with satisfaction, of the increased cooperation between the organizations;

(b) Encourage the Executive Director to continue her efforts to intensify cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements in relation to the Sustainable Cities Programme, within available resources.

I. COOPERATION UNDER THE FOUR SUBJECT AREAS

Subject area 1: Assessment of environmental conditions in human settlements

1. The report World Resources: a Guide to the Global Environment of 1996-1997 devotes special attention to the assessment of environmental conditions in the urban environment as a contribution to the Habitat II conference. UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP made substantial technical inputs to this joint publication of the World Resources Institute, UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank.

2. The joint Sustainable Cities Programme has supported the development of "environmental profiles" in cities preparing to become participants in the Programme. Profiles involve a broad range of local stakeholders and provide information not only on the state of the physical environment, but also on its implications for social and economic development and on existing environmental management arrangements. Most recently, such environmental assessments have been concluded in Shenyang and Wuhan (China), Lusaka (Zambia), Maputo and Nampula (Mozambique) and Madras (India). UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP have also cooperated in international meetings in Dakar (Senegal, June 1995), Madras (India, February 1996), and Istanbul (Turkey, June 1996) to document experiences in environmental management from some 50 cities.

Subject area 2: Environmental aspects of policies, planning and management of human settlements - both rural and urban

UNEP/UNCHS (Habitat) Task Force on the Continuum from Relief to Development

4. Under the aegis of the Joint UNEP/UNCHS (Habitat) Task Force on the Continuum from Relief to Development, the two organizations initiated an activity in response to the problems facing the African Great Lakes Region of Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire. A report on this initiative, a Strategic Action Plan for the Great Lakes Region, was completed and presented at a Donor's Roundtable on Rwanda, held on 23 January 1996 in Geneva, Switzerland. The goal of the Strategic Action Plan is to bring a region-wide focus to the ongoing and future efforts of countries and external agencies, including UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat), towards attaining political, social and environmental stability and sustainable economic development in the entire Great Lakes region.

Pilot project

5. A feasibility study on the establishment of a pilot project for the production of densified carbonaceous briquettes (smokeless fuel) was also completed and work is under way on expanding existing facilities for the production of this alternative household energy source, in view of the widespread environmental damage associated with the use of firewood or charcoal and the serious health impact of inhalation of wood smoke.

The new joint Sustainable Cities Programme

6. UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) cooperation in environmental aspects of policies, planning and management of human settlements entered a new era in January 1996 when the two agencies formally established a full partnership in the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) as recommended by the Governing Council decision 18/15 (April 1995) and resolution 15/8 of the Commission on Human Settlements (May 1995).

7. Initially meant to package and apply the specialized know-how available from UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat), the SCP has become the primary tool for supporting Agenda 21 at the city level. The SCP, working with more than 20 agency partners world-wide, is an important new tool for supporting implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The SCP continued to gain momentum during 1995 and 1996 and is operating in an increasing number of countries. Support to these city demonstrations has improved dramatically since early 1996, when UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP agreed to share equally the cost of an expanded SCP core team. Activities undertaken during 1996 include a first meeting of all SCP and associated cities, held in Istanbul in June 1996, and a package of activities for enhanced communication and awareness-building, as well as accelerated preparation of environmental planning and management tools.

8. Increased cooperation through the SCP at the city level has enabled the two organizations to work together and realize the unique complementarities of their scientific, technical and financial resources. Such cooperation was provided in the areas of environmentally sustainable technologies, water and coastal management, environmental health, geographic information systems (GIS), and the management of industrial risk. In the latter area, training workshops and consultative services have been provided by the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre (IE/PAC) through its Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) programme.

9. Another important joint output of the SCP during the biennium was a meeting on "Implementing the urban environment agenda", held on 1 June 1996, during the Habitat II Conference. Over 250 representatives of more than 75 cities and 20 international support programmes working in the urban environment convened to define a common support agenda for urban environmental planning and management and related international support. There was a clear consensus that the area of inter-programme cooperation offered much under-utilized potential and that city interest and support for that initiative were considerable. The participants committed themselves to a continuation of the dialogue among cities and international support programmes and adopted the Istanbul Manifesto on Implementing the Urban

Environment Agenda. Such an urban environment forum will provide a firm basis for strengthening and expanding future activities in support of their joint commitment to the urban environment agenda.

Managing water resources for large cities and towns

10. A conference entitled "Managing water resources for large cities and towns", organized by UNCHS (Habitat) with the support of UNEP and other organizations, was held in Beijing in March 1996. The main objectives of the conference were to exchange information, ideas and experience on successful practices in freshwater and wastewater management in large cities and other urban settlements, to synthesize viewpoints and commitments for the action continuum from Agenda 21 to the Habitat Agenda to be adopted in Istanbul, and to prepare a substantive framework for a roundtable on water resources management in cities and towns (the Habitat II Dialogue for the 21st Century on Water). The conference concluded with the "Beijing Declaration", a statement on issues and priorities in urban water resources management and a set of recommendations for ensuring sustainability, documented case studies on urban water resources management, and heightened awareness among stakeholders on sustainable methods of urban water resources management.

The role of local authorities in the urban environment

11. A major initiative of UNCHS (Habitat), with financial support from UNEP, was the publication Making Cities Work which was launched at the Habitat II Conference. Produced in collaboration with the International Council for Local Environmental Institutions (ICLEI) and the United Towns Development Agency, acting on behalf of the "G4+" grouping of international associations of local authorities, the book maps out, from their perspective, the role and functions of local authorities in sustainable urban development. Designed to provide a policy blueprint for future local authority-United Nations partnership in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the book also contains a number of illustrative best practices in municipal management to underscore the catalytic and innovative role of local authorities in human settlements development.

Subject area 3: Environmentally sound and appropriate human settlements technology

International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC)

12. The International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) gave technical assistance to the SCP by providing advisory services on environmental planning and management and supporting capacity-building activities, particularly in the area of transfer of environmentally sound technologies, environmental risk assessment, environmental technology assessment and the preparation of environmental profiles as a basis for urban environmental planning and management. IETC is currently collaborating in four Sustainable Cities projects; Shenyang and Wuhan in China, Katowice in Poland and Concepcion in Chile. IETC implemented a regional workshop for Eastern Europe on environmental risk assessment in April 1996.

13. IETC also made a contribution to the Habitat II Conference by sponsoring and organizing, together with the Global Environment Centre (GEC) Foundation of Japan, a symposium and exhibition on environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) in Istanbul on 5 June 1996. The symposium highlighted examples of "hard" ESTs on solid waste management and wastewater treatment from Germany, Japan, Senegal and the United States, as well as examples of "soft" ESTs on capacity-building, planning and management. It was attended by local and national executives, representatives from industry, NGOs and academics from developing countries.

Subject area 4: Research, training and the dissemination of information on environmentally sound human settlements planning and management

14. Data and technical support were given to UNCHS (Habitat) during the Habitat II process. Digital maps and posters created in the GRID laboratory were exhibited during the Conference. The joint SCP initiated work on several programme-level support activities for the SCP city network. All these activities respond to needs identified at the city level and make use of lessons from operational experience. The resulting products will be put to immediate use in the cities and include the following: tools for remote-sensing and GIS technology; tools for air quality management; tools for environmental risk assessment; tools for the management of environmental health risks; tools for addressing gender issues in sustainable urban development; tools for conducting city consultations; a CD-ROM and world-wide-web site; non-recurrent technical publications; video documentaries; Sustainable City News, a quarterly newsletter; and an information service to provide routine responses to queries.

II. COOPERATION IN SYSTEM-WIDE EFFORTS

The Habitat II Conference

15. UNEP assisted UNCHS (Habitat) in preparing for Habitat II by loaning a staff member and by arranging and producing special publications, posters, workshops and meetings in cooperation with other organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations. Special mention should be made of the fact that the World Environment Day celebrations in 1996 were held in Istanbul in support of Habitat II.

16. Another notable example of UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) cooperation has been to establish, based on the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) at its third session in March 1994, and later endorsed by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), a mechanism for cross-sectoral collaborative programming in sustainable urban development. This urban forum is expected to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to exchange views and build partnerships to address the multi-sectoral challenges of urbanization. The forum could eventually become a useful mechanism for joint programming not only among the United Nations agencies, but also with other important partners such as NGOs and the private sector.

17. A proposal on the organizational aspects and functions of the forum is currently under discussion. Initially, the forum is expected to focus on the exchange of information on "best practices" in different areas of urban management and on monitoring country-level collaboration among external support agencies.

18. UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP work closely together in reporting on the sustainable development of water resources for urban use to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Water Resources. In its capacity as the Task Manager on water resources for the IACSD, the Subcommittee on Water Resources prepares reports for the CSD which incorporate inputs from all relevant United Nations system organizations and specialized agencies.

III. FUTURE PROSPECTS

19. With the adoption of the Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), a new framework for future cooperation between UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) has been provided. With regard to the major goal of the Habitat Agenda in working towards sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, the joint Sustainable Cities Programme has a clear potential as an important implementing mechanism. The catalytic efforts of the SCP in bringing together other urban programmes of international organizations and cities in implementing the urban environment agenda promise to be a major breakthrough more effectively integrating and coordinating the activities of the United Nations system with those of local communities and local authorities.

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POLICY ISSUES

The role of women in environment and development

Summary

The present report, submitted in accordance with Governing Council decision 18/6, describes the action taken by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to implement the recommendations of that decision. It also reports on the input of UNEP to the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995.

Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council may wish to:

(a) Take note, with appreciation, of the Executive Director's report;

(b) Welcome and endorse the policy framework document Gender and the Environment: A UNEP Perspective and other activities undertaken in support of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

(c) Note with concern that progress towards the achievement of full integration of gender into the work and activities of UNEP has been hampered by the reduction in resources;

(d) Request the Executive Director to report to the Council at its twentieth session on implementation of this decision.

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THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

1. While UNEP has demonstrated leadership regarding the role of women in environment and development within the United Nations, it has not, however, been able to respond fully to all the recommendations of Governing Council decisions 17/4 and 18/6.

2. In response to the Governing Council requests which could be achieved within the funding constraints, several activities have been initiated, which aim to integrate a gender perspective and balance into the work and activities of UNEP. These include:

(a) Maintaining efforts to attain the targets set by the United Nations for the representation of women in professional posts and posts at the senior policy-making level (see table A). Despite downsizing within the organization, efforts to achieve staffing targets for women will not be compromised;

(b) Developing a set of guidelines for the integration of gender into UNEP activities, including the design, monitoring and evaluation of programme and projects, resource mobilization strategy, the processing and dissemination of information, training measures, the conduct of meetings, hiring procedures and selection panels;

(c) Incorporating gender sensitivity criteria in the UNEP Project Design, Approval and Evaluation Manual and in the UNEP Publications Manual and the screening of all 1996-1997 projects for gender sensitivity; and

(d) Establishing a gender focal point and convening a gender issues board, with a view to advising the Executive Director on the implementation of gender policies.

Table A: UNEP staff by gender and grade for the period 1992-1996 (as at 30 July)

Grade	1994 W	1994 M	1994 total	1994 % W	1996 W	1996 M	1996 total	1996 % W	1994-96 % change M	1994-96 % change W
USG	1	0	1	100%	1	0	1	100%	0%	0%
ASG	0	0	0	-	0	1	1	0%	100%	0%
D2	2	10	12	17%	3	10	13	23%	0%	50%
D1	2	29	31	6%	4	31	35	11%	7%	100%
P5	13	48	61	21%	10	39	49	20%	(19)%	(23)%
P4	31	75	106	29%	23	60	83	28%	(20)%	(26)%
P3	25	51	76	33%	34	38	72	47%	(25)%	36%
P2	27	29	56	48%	19	25	44	43%	(14)%	(30)%
P1	4	3	7	57%	0	3	3	0%	0%	(100)%
Total	105	245	350	30%	94	207	301	31%	(16)%	(10)%

3. The Executive Director was requested to enhance the cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat) and UNEP by ensuring an input and contribution by UNEP to Habitat II in the area of gender and environment. Action taken in compliance with this request included:

(a) Sponsoring a special event entitled "Rights to Land/Property", a forum for presentations from various workshops held before Habitat II, on the six best practices with regard to women's legal rights to land and property. The collaborating institutions were the Centre for Housing Rights (COHRE), the Asian Women and Shelter Network (AWAS), the UNCHS (Habitat) Women in Human Settlements Development Programme, the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM);

(b) Participating in the preparatory meetings for Habitat II;

(c) Advocating the mainstreaming of gender and environment components into the Habitat agenda; and

(d) Participating in the Huairou Commission, to ensure that environmental considerations form part of the articulation of gender issues in the Habitat agenda.

4. The Executive Director was further requested to report on the role taken by UNEP in the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995. Actions taken in this regard may be summarized as follows:

(a) UNEP assisted in the preparatory process in the development of section K of the Strategic Objectives and Actions of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which calls upon nations and peoples to implement the following objectives: involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels; integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development; and strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women;

(b) The Executive Director gave ten specific commitments to meet the global priorities for the advancement of women by the year 2000 in support of the objective of section K and has set in place the necessary institutional structures and implementation strategy. These commitments are to:

(i) endeavour to incorporate women's concerns into UNEP policies, programme and projects;

(ii) adjust recruitment policies to recognize the special constraints that women face and create a favorable environment for the recruitment of women;

(iii) judge managers according to the extent to which they incorporate gender criteria in performance appraisals;

(iv) ensure that women participate and that gender concerns are reflected in policy development work, in particular as it relates to the implementation of environmental conventions;

(v) undertake to give priority to environmental education and training programmes tailored to the needs of women, to empower them to take decisions and to transfer this knowledge to their children;

(vi) design programmes to cater for the needs of women who are often the victims of armed conflicts that take place over land and resources, to empower them to contribute to conflict resolution and prevention at all levels;

(vii) emphasize in law programmes the need to accord women the legal rights to enable them to manage and own land and make decisions on land use;

(viii) strive to strengthen the control of hazardous chemicals banned in industrialized countries that are still exported to developing countries and pose serious risks to health and well-being of women and children;

(ix) advocate and support respect for the fundamental rights of women, which are human rights, to ensure that women contribute fully and freely their knowledge and capacities to the solution of environmental problems at the local, national and global levels; and

(x) ensure that the special skill and responsibilities of women acquired throughout history as managers and nurturers of our natural resource base are recognized and that they are accorded their rightful role in decisions-making at all levels.

(c) UNEP produced the following publications to raise the awareness of conference delegates to the women and environment issues expressed in the Platform for Action:

(i) Gender and the Environment - A UNEP Perspective, a framework document to assist Governments and other organizations in developing strategies and action plans to address the objectives outlined in section K of the Strategic Objectives and Actions of the Platform for Action;

(ii) A special edition of Our Planet devoted to the theme of women and sustainable development, which highlighted the major issues to be addressed. Contributors included Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Gertrude Mongella, Carol Bellamy, Noeleen Heyzer and Sadako Ogata;

(iii) Women and the Environment: making a difference. Global 500 Award winners 1987-1995, a compilation of profiles of outstanding women on the front line of environmental action, including best practice scenarios; and

(iv) A UNEP poster, available in all United Nations official languages, as a vehicle for building awareness of the special link between women and nature.

(d) UNEP coordinated and participated in special events during the conference, to inform delegates of the objectives contained in section K of the Strategic Objectives and Actions of the Platform for Action, entitled "Women and the environment":

(i) UNEP and the Chinese National Environmental Protection Agency cosponsored a tree planting ceremony of indigenous species at the nature reserve in Milu to commemorate the World Conference;

(ii) The Executive Director addressed the non-governmental organization forum of plenaries in Huairou; participated in the round-table discussions on the topic "Women and men on the road to Istanbul"; participated in the high-level panel discussion on "Gender, environment and development"; and officiated at the closing of the non-governmental organization forum.

(e) UNEP has participated in the follow-up to the "Women and the environment" section of the Platform for Action, by:

(i) contributing to inter-agency discussions and the formulation of inputs to the System-Wide Medium-Term Plan for Women and Development;

(ii) providing the lead for environmental issues as part of an inter-agency group on women in conflict in East Africa; and

(iii) producing 12 awareness-building posters on the major themes of the conference as they related to environment.

5. At only the mid-point of the biennium, efforts to integrate a gender perspective into the work and activities of UNEP have already made substantial progress. The following actions will be given priority in 1997:

(a) Field testing the gender sensitivity checklist for the screening of UNEP projects;

(b) Creating a network of gender focal points within Governments working in the field of gender and environment, with the purpose of exchanging information and experience;

(c) Strengthening the women's roster to ensure that qualified women are encouraged to apply for UNEP jobs; and

(d) Ensuring an adequate input by UNEP into United Nations inter-agency and other major conferences and events.

6. Gender will be included in the UNEP programme of work for 1998-1999. In addition, UNEP will continue to pursue a vigorous fund-raising strategy to co-finance activities and to secure Junior Professional Officer support from donor Governments.